



Washington State Department of Agriculture News Release

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WSDA to hold open houses in Eatonville, Puyallup on gypsy moths

OLYMPIA – The Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) will hold open houses in February on proposed gypsy moth treatments in Eatonville and Puyallup. WSDA staff will be on hand to answer questions on its proposal to conduct biological insecticide treatments this spring to eradicate infestations at two sites: a neighborhood in Eatonville near Eatonville Highway and Hilligoss Lane and a separate project at the South Hill Mall in Puyallup.

Gypsy moth is a forest pest that attacks both deciduous and evergreen trees, as well as urban landscapes, shrubs and other vegetation.

Individuals are invited to drop in anytime during the informal sessions. The open house for Eatonville is scheduled for 6:30-8 p.m. Feb. 7 at Eatonville High School, 302 Mashell Ave. N. The open house for South Hill Mall, Puyallup, is slated for 6:30-8 p.m. Feb. 13 at Woodland Elementary School, 7707 112th St. E.

WSDA is proposing to use a biological insecticide (*Bacillus thuringiensis* var. *kurstaki* or Btk), used in the past to keep gypsy moths out of Washington. Before reaching a decision on the proposals, WSDA will comply with the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The department will consult with state and federal agencies, and prepare two documents for public review and comment that assess the impact of the proposals on the environment. The two documents are a SEPA checklist and a NEPA draft environmental assessment.

If the proposals are approved, three to five treatments—administered three to 14 days apart—will begin in late April or early May.

For more information on WSDA's gypsy moth program, call the agency's toll-free hotline (1-800-443-6684) or visit the agency's website at <http://agr.wa.gov/Plantsinsects/InsectPests/GypsyMoth/>. The website includes a map of the proposed treatment site.

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